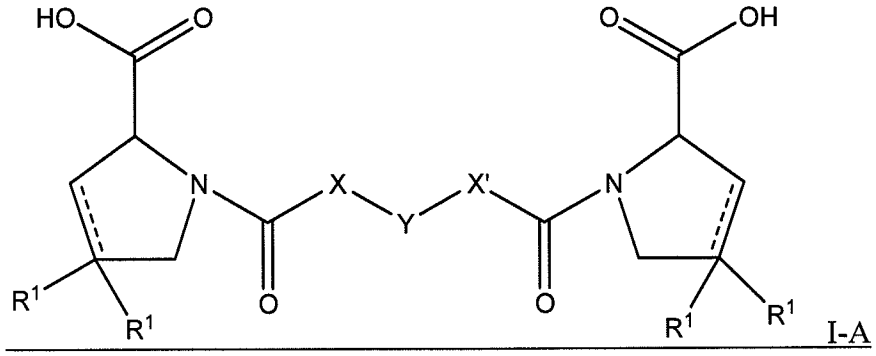
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for treatment ~~or prevention~~ of osteoarthritis in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament comprising an agent of the formula



I-A

wherein,

R^1 is hydrogen or halogen;

X is $-(CH_2)_n-$; $-CH(R^2)(CH_2)_n-$; $-CH_2O(CH_2)_n-$; $-CH_2NH-$; benzyl; $-C(R^2)=CH-$; $-CH_2CH(OH)-$; or thiazol-2,5-diyl;

Y is –S-S-; $-(CH_2)_n-$; -O-; -NH-; $-N(R^2)-$; -CH=CH-; -NHC(O)NH-; $-N(R^2)C(O)N(R^2)-$; $-N[CH_2C_6H_3(OCH_3)_2]-$; $N(CH_2C_6H_5)-$; $-N(CH_2C_6H_5)C(O)N(CH_2C_6H_5)-$; -N(alkoxyalkyl)-; N(cycloalkyl-methyl); 2,6-pyridyl; 2,5-furanyl; 2,5-thienyl; 1,2-cyclohexyl; 1,3-cyclohexyl; 1,4-cyclohexyl; 1,2-naphthyl; 1,4-naphthyl; 1,5-naphthyl; 1,6-naphthyl; biphenylen; or 1,2-phenylen, 1,3-phenylen and 1,4-phenylen, wherein the phenylen groups are optionally substituted by 1-4 substituents, selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxy, -COO-lower alkyl, nitrilo, 5-tetrazol, (2-carboxylic acid pyrrolidin-l-yl)-2-oxo-ethoxy, N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl, 5-oxo[1,2,4]oxadiazolyl, 2-oxo-[1,2,3,5]oxathiadiazolyl, 5-thioxo[1,2,4]oxadiazolyl and 5-tert-butylsulfanyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazolyl;

X' is $-(CH_2)_n-$; $-(CH_2)_nCH(R^2)-$; $-(CH_2)_nOCH_2-$; $-NHCH_2-$; benzyl, $-CH=C(R^2)-$; $-CH(OH)CH_2-$; or thiazol-2,5-diyl;

R^2 is a lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or benzyl; and

n is 0-3,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mono- or diester thereof,

wherein the agent is capable of inhibiting serum amyloid P component (SAP) ligand binding activity or depleting SAP from the plasma of the subject.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein the agent is capable of being bound by a ligand binding site present on SAP.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the agent comprises a plurality of ligands covalently co-linked so as to form a complex with SAP and a second protein, wherein at least two of the ligands are the same or different, one of which is capable of being bound by a ligand binding site present on SAP and another is capable of being bound by a ligand binding site present on the second protein.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[17]] 15, wherein the linker comprises a linear or branched hydrocarbylene in which one or more of the carbon atoms thereof is optionally substituted by a heteroatom.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the second protein is SAP.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for treatment ~~or prevention~~ of osteoarthritis in a subject, which comprises administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament comprising (R)-1-[6-(R)-2-Carboxy-pyrrolidin-l-yl]-6-oxo-hexanoyl]pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or mono- or diester thereof.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein,

X is $-(CH_2)_n-$; $-CH(R^2)(CH_2)_n-$; $-CH_2O(CH_2)_n-$; or $-C(R^2)=CH-$;

Y is $-(CH_2)_n-$; -CH=CH-; 1,2-cyclohexyl; 1,3-cyclohexyl; 1,4-cyclohexyl; 1,2-naphthyl; 1,4-naphthyl; 1,5-naphthyl; 1,6-naphthyl; biphenylen; or 1,2-phenylen, 1,3-phenylen and 1,4-phenylen, wherein the phenylen groups are optionally substituted by 1-4 substituents, selected from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxy, -COO-lower alkyl, nitrilo, 5-tetrazol, (2-carboxylic acid pyrrolidin-l-yl)-2-oxo-ethoxy, N-hydroxycarbamimidoyl, 5-oxo[1,2,4]oxadiazolyl, 2-oxo-[1,2,3,5]oxathiadiazolyl, 5-thioxo[1,2,4]oxadiazolyl and 5-tert-butylsulfanyl-[1,2,4]oxadiazolyl; and

X' is $-(CH_2)_n-$; $-(CH_2)_nCH(R^2)-$; $-(CH_2)_nOCH_2-$; or $-CH=C(R^2)-$.

29. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein,

X is $-(CH_2)_n-$ or $-CH(R^2)(CH_2)_n-$;

Y is $-(CH_2)_n-$; 1,3-cyclohexyl; 1,4-cyclohexyl; 1,2-naphthyl; 1,4-naphthyl; 1,5-naphthyl; 1,6-naphthyl; biphenylen; or 1,2-phenylen, 1,3-phenylen and 1,4-phenylen; and

X' is $-(CH_2)_n-$ or $-(CH_2)_nCH(R^2)-$.

30. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein,

X is $-(CH_2)_n-$;

Y is $-(CH_2)_n-$; and

X' is $-(CH_2)_n-$.